

Minutes

**African American Heritage Commission
Of Asheville and Buncombe County
January 15, 2015
6th Floor Training Room, City Hall**

Members Present: Isaac Coleman, Marvin Chambers, Sasha Mitchell

Members Absent: Johnnie Grant (excused) Angel Redmond (excused), Phyllis Utley (excused)

Council Liaison: Councilman Chris Pelly

Staff: Roderick Simmons, Alex Carmichael

Chairwoman Mitchell called the meeting to order. There was no quorum, and no official business was conducted.

1. New Business

- a. Chairwoman Mitchell raised a discussion of a Black History Month event with presentations on area African American history and individuals and families of Asheville and Buncombe County. YMI offered venue space. The event would also be an opportunity to solicit ideas from the community about the work of the African American Heritage Commission. Marvin Chambers suggested forming a committee to propose a program.

2. Public Comment

- a. Roy Harris spoke to the Commission regarding events that he witnessed in Asheville last summer. Mr. Harris came downtown on an evening when several performances or outdoor events were happening simultaneously in Pack Square Park, Roger McGuire Green and on street corners. He noticed the general segregation of the crowds, and was struck by the lack of activity on the Eagle Street/ Market Street block. The history of “the Block”, the YMI, and urban renewal in Asheville were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:17 PM.